

Letter From the Editor

Dear Reader,

I am very pleased to welcome you to the second issue of the *Duluth Journal of Advanced Writing (DJAW)*. This journal was established last year as a means to advance the field of advanced writing by representing the work of UMD undergraduates through original publication. Each of the articles in this issue was written by students during courses that fulfill the University of Minnesota Duluth's advanced writing requirement. These courses aim to introduce students to academic writing methods and styles that are an essential part of professional careers. *DJAW* reflects that mission and is an outlet for students to demonstrate their efforts and knowledge.

The many tasks leading to publication, including the advertising, editing, and organizing, were taken on by myself and Dr. Elizabethada Wright instead of an editorial board of multiple undergraduate students like the previous issue. The process of publishing the 2021 issue began with reaching out to undergraduate students of all disciplines through a call for submissions of any type of writing created for one of UMD's advanced writing courses. This included a variety of methods to advertise the journal and get the word out to students.

Due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, promoting the journal was unconventional as many of the usual methods were restricted. We reached out to advanced writing professors to promote submitting to the journal to current and past students. Additionally, we contacted professors in non-writing fields to extend the call to even more students and broaden the disciplines in which we were able to represent. This year, more than ever, the internet was a vital source of advertising, and was utilized to extend information to UMD students through the creation of digital posters that were displayed across the campus, social media, and university websites.

We were extremely impressed with the amount of texts we received, as we acquired more than double the amount of submissions than the inaugural issue last year. From the submissions, we were able to select a handful of exceptional works to publish that spoke to the talent and skill of UMD undergraduates. Given the incredible amount of submissions received, we were unable to accept every article, and we would like to have accepted more; however, the limitations of the pandemic limited the number of acceptances we could make. We would like to express our gratitude to all the students who took the time to go through the submission process, submitting excellent work. This journal could be twice as long if it were not for the pandemic.

The goal of *DJAW* is to continue to grow and therefore be able to accept more submissions and publish more undergraduates every year. Being only the second issue published, the growth in submissions is already incredible, but we are certain that the journal will continue to develop and gain popularity among the students and faculty of UMD as well as others in the

advanced writing field. One of the main ways this will happen is through the continuation of promoting the journal to excelling undergraduates. Through both faculty and peer communication, other students will be able to understand what scholarly articles are and what getting published in one can do for them.

The *Duluth Journal of Advanced Writing* is scholarly or peer-reviewed, which ensures that the journal articles are of quality and are scientifically valid. This aids *DJAW* in becoming a reputable source that publishes works that truly contribute to the professional field. For the peer-review process, we contacted professors and other UMD faculty members from a wide variety of fields. Each submission was assessed by multiple reviewers from the appropriate discipline, assuring that each accepted submission was accurate and justifiable. We are very grateful to all the faculty who assisted us this semester as reviewers.

Another aspect of creating the journal included the development of the journal's design and aesthetic. This became an important part of advertising, as well as designing the published works. I came into the project with no background on graphic design. Using Adobe InDesign was an educational experience that required me to gain a new set of skills that will surely come in handy for my future endeavors.

The *Duluth Journal of Advanced Writing* is a type of publication known as an open access journal. This allows *DJAW* to be openly available for everyone to view the entire issue. This was important to the editorial team of the inaugural issue last year and continues to be, because being open access ensures that the published works are easily accessible. It makes the journal a creative but simple way to publish undergraduate's work and allow them to get their start in professional writing and gain recognition for their hard work. So enjoy reading any article that intrigues you from this current issue free of charge.

Even after only one year, the *Duluth Journal of Advanced Writing* has already grown and developed. With the global pandemic impacting many aspects of this academic year, creating the second issue of *DJAW* has been unorthodox in a variety of ways. However, I am very grateful for the opportunity to work with Dr. Elizabethada Wright this semester. As the only undergraduate editor, the process has been time-consuming and demanding at times, but overall my experience has been extremely positive and fulfilling. The amount of knowledge that I have gained regarding editing, graphic design, and the world of publishing has been extremely beneficial. I hope that you enjoy the content of the second edition of the *Duluth Journal of Advanced Writing* and that you find the works to be intriguing and educationally stimulating.

Signed,

Meredith Reynolds, Editor

